

Naval Facilities Engineering Command – Atlantic

RAB Status Report: November, 2006

Former Navy Property, Vieques, Puerto Rico

This report provides the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) with a status of on-going work at the Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern (SWMUs and AOCs) on the former Naval Ammunition Support Detachment (NASD) property in western Vieques and an overview of the Munitions Response Activities on eastern Vieques. The following is a summary of the activities completed through November 2006, and the activities planned for completion for the next few months.

CURRENT AND COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

- **AOC E (Former Waste Oil Tank)**

The Supplemental Remedial Investigation (RI) field work, comprising soil and groundwater sampling, began in November 2005 and was completed in December 2005. Updated human health and ecological risk assessment protocols have been developed (via an interactive process with the stakeholder agencies) and are currently under regulatory consideration. The human health and ecological risk assessments will be conducted and the Draft RI Report revised once the protocols have been finalized.

- **AOC H (Abandoned Power Plant)**

Regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted for review in April 2004 were received in October 2005. Comment responses were prepared and submitted to the agencies for consideration in January 2006. A meeting was held among the agencies in May and September 2006 to discuss the comment responses and reach concurrence on an acceptable set of responses and associated report revisions. It is anticipated that the final set of comment responses will be concurred upon during the December CERCLA Technical Committee (CTC) meeting and the Draft Final RI Report produced in January 2007.

- **AOC I (Former Asphalt Mixing Plant)**

The Supplemental RI field work, comprising monitoring well installation and sampling, began in late November 2005 and completed in January 2006. Updated human health and ecological risk assessment protocols have been developed (via an interactive process with the stakeholder agencies) and are currently under regulatory consideration. The human health and ecological risk assessments will be conducted and the Draft RI Report prepared once the protocols have been finalized.

- **AOC J (Former Operations/Staging Area Disposal Site)**

The Draft Final EE/CA for AOC J, AOC R, SWMU 6, and SWMU 7 was submitted in December 2005. The public comment period on the EE/CA was scheduled from about mid-December 2005 to mid-January 2006, but a request from a RAB member extended the public comment period for an additional 2 weeks. No public comments on the EE/CA were received. A draft removal action work plan was submitted to the regulatory agencies in November 2005. Regulatory comments were submitted to the Navy in March 2006. Navy responses to comments were submitted for regulatory consideration in November 2006. Once regulatory concurrence on the comment responses is reached, the draft final removal action work plan will be prepared. The removal action is anticipated to take place in early 2007, pending finalization of the removal action work plan.

Regulatory comments on the Draft RI Report submitted for review in April 2004 were received in January 2006. Comment responses were prepared, taking into consideration the removal action to be conducted at the site, and were submitted to the regulatory agencies for consideration in May 2006. A meeting was held among the agencies in September 2006 to discuss the comment responses and concur upon a path forward for revising the report. Based on the revisions made to the Draft RI Report for SWMU 6 (see description under SWMU 6 below), it is anticipated that the Draft RI Report for AOC J will be revised and submitted as Draft Final in early 2007.

- **AOC R (Former Staging and Operations Area)**

The RI field work, comprising monitoring well installation and surface water, sediment, soil, and groundwater sampling, began in December 2005 and was completed in March 2006. The analytical data are currently being evaluated to determine if they are sufficient for assessing the nature and extent of contamination and potential risks. If additional data are deemed necessary, the additional sampling will be proposed to the regulatory agencies and coordinated with the planned removal action (see below).

See the discussion above under AOC J regarding the EE/CA and removal action work plan for this site. The removal action at AOC R may take place at a later date than what is planned for AOC J, SWMU 6, and SWMU 7.

- **SWMU 4 (Former OB/OD Unit)**

Regulatory comments on the draft RI work plan submitted for review in June 2004 were received in January 2006. Comment responses were prepared and submitted to the regulatory agencies for consideration in April 2006. A meeting was held among the agencies in May and September 2006 to discuss the comment responses and reach concurrence on an acceptable set of responses and associated work plan revisions. The final set of comment responses were concurred upon and the Draft Final RI Work Plan produced in November 2006. It is anticipated that the RI will be implemented in January 2007.

- **SWMU 6 (Mangrove Disposal Site at Kiani Lagoon)**

Regulatory comments on the Draft RI Report submitted for regulatory review in April 2004 were received in June 2006. Comment responses were prepared and submitted to the agencies for consideration in August 2006. A meeting was held among the agencies in September 2006 to discuss the comment responses and concur upon a path forward for revising the report. It was determined that because a removal action is planned that

will address potential risks posed by the debris at this site, it would be more appropriate to utilize available funding to plan for and execute the removal action than to continue to discuss and modify the RI Report. Therefore, text that: (1) recognizes the debris as a potential future source of contamination, (2) identifies the planned removal action, and (3) proposes a post-removal confirmatory sampling process to ensure the site is protective of human health and the environment has been added to the Draft RI Report, which was then resubmitted for regulatory review in November 2006. It is anticipated that the Draft Final Report will be produced in early 2007, pending concurrence on the modified text. Once the modified text for SWMU 6 is concurred upon by the stakeholder agencies, the Draft RI Reports for AOC J and SWMU 7 will be modified accordingly and produced as Draft Final.

See the discussion above under AOC J regarding the EE/CA and removal action work plan for this site.

- **SWMU 7 (Quebrada Disposal Site)**

Responses to regulatory comments on the draft RI report submitted to the regulatory agencies in November 2004. A path forward for revising the RI report was discussed among the stakeholder agencies in September 2006. Based on the revisions made to the Draft RI Report for SWMU 6 (see description under SWMU 6 below), it is anticipated that the Draft RI Report for SWMU 7 will be revised and submitted as Draft Final in early 2007.

See the discussion above under AOC J regarding the EE/CA and removal action work plan for this site.

Site Management Plan

A Site Management Plan will be prepared in accordance with requirements defined in the Federal Facility Agreement, which is under development.

EASTERN VIEQUES

- **Original 12 SWMUs/AOCs Contained in the RCRA Consent Order**

A data summary report summarizing the data collected during the Phase I RFI was submitted to the regulatory agencies in May 2005. The draft Phase I RFI report will be completed once the soil inorganics background investigation has been completed and its report finalized.

- **PI/PAOC sites**

The final PA/SI work plan for 8 PI/PAOC site was submitted in January 2006, based on regulatory agency approval. The field work began in January 2006 and was completed in April 2006. The draft PA/SI Report will be prepared once the soil inorganics background investigation has been completed and its report finalized.

- **Background Soil Inorganics**

The public comment period on the Work Plan ended on June 11, 2005. Based on the public comments, several revisions were made to the technical approach to the Background Investigation (i.e., several sampling locations relocated, explosives analysis added for each sample collected, etc.). The Final Work Plan, with these revisions incorporated, was submitted in May 2006. Agency responses to the comments were finalized, and they were discussed with the RAB at the June RAB meeting. The field work commenced in June 2006 and was completed in early July 2006. The data are currently being evaluated and the draft report is being prepared. It is anticipated that the draft report will be submitted for regulatory review in December 2006.

MUNITIONS RESPONSE PROGRAM

WEST VIEQUES

- **SWMU 4 (Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Area)**
The Draft Munitions/Explosives Remedial Investigation Report dated April 2004 is still under regulatory review.
- A draft engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to remove munitions at selected areas in the vicinity of SWMU 4 was submitted to the regulatory agencies in December 2005. Regulator comments received March 13, 2006. Navy and Regulatory agencies are determining appropriate approach and the Draft-Final EE/CA is expected to be submitted November 2006.

EASTERN VIEQUES - Munitions Response Actions

The Time Critical Removal Action in the LIA continues. An amendment to the TCRA work plan has been approved by the regulators and will expand the TCRA to the remainder of the LIA and the ECA.

- 220 acres surface cleared
- 4,834 MEC items demilitarized
- 280 tons of munitions debris recovered
- 310 tons of range related debris recovered

Air monitoring still in effect to assess the BIP activities. Additional air monitoring efforts are being evaluated to support the proposed controlled burning. This includes modeling to determine ambient air impacts.

Burn plan has been developed and is under review. Controlled burning is proposed due to the significant numbers of sub munitions being encountered and the associated hazard. Controlled burning is the safest method of vegetation removal.

Expanded Range Assessment/Phase II Site Inspection will be implemented beginning of 2007 to continue to assess, prioritize and sequence munitions response sites across the entire range (EMA, SIA, and ECA).

Draft EE/CA being developed for removal action at beach areas and selected roadways. This action will include removing subsurface munitions for approximately 75 acres of beaches and 200 acres of roadway.

Navy is continuing to train local residents to fill critical positions. Training to date includes 13 residents trained as UXO Technician I and 38 local residents received 40 hr OSHA training. These residents and additional site support personnel fill 57 positions on-site. Since the removal action has begun (June 2005) over \$450,000 in salaries have been paid to local residents working on the site and over \$1,000,000 in contracts to Puerto Rican firms have been paid.

Public Involvement Activities

- The Navy conducted a RAB site visit on November 16, 2006
- The next RAB meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2007.

VIEQUES DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL UPDATE (as of November 2006)

Site	Document	Status
West Vieques		
AOC E	Revised Draft RI Report	Will be prepared once human health and ecological risk assessment protocols are finalized
AOC H	Draft RI Report	Submitted for regulatory review April 2004; regulatory comments received October 2005; responses submitted January 2006
AOC I	Draft RI Report	Will be prepared once human health and ecological risk assessment protocols are finalized
AOC R	Final RI Work Plan	Submitted November 2005
	Draft EE/CA	Submitted for regulatory review August 2005; regulatory comments received October 2005; comments resolved November 2005

	Final EE/CA	Submitted for public review December 2005; no public comments received
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	Submitted for regulatory review November 2005; regulatory comments received March 2006; responses submitted November 2006
AOC J	Draft RI Report	Submitted for regulatory review April 2004; regulatory comments received January 2006; responses submitted May 2006
	Draft EE/CA	See "AOC R" above
	Final EE/CA	See "AOC R" above
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	See "AOC R" above
SWMU 4	Draft RI Work Plan	Submitted for regulatory review June 2004; regulatory comments received January 2006; responses submitted April 2006; comments resolved November 2006
	Draft Final RI Work Plan	Submitted for RAB review November 2006
SWMU 6	Draft RI Report	Submitted for regulatory review April 2004; regulatory comment received June 2006; responses submitted August 2006; revised draft submitted November 2006
	Draft EE/CA	See "AOC R" above
	Final EE/CA	See "AOC R" above
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	See "AOC R" above
SWMU 7	Draft RI Report	Responses to regulatory

		comments submitted November 2004
	Draft EE/CA	See "AOC R" above
	Final EE/CA	See "AOC R" above
	Draft Removal Action Work Plan	See "AOC R" above
NFA Sites (9)	Final NFA Report	Submitted November 2006
East Vieques		
Background Soil	Revised Draft Final Soil Inorganics Background Investigation Work Plan	Submitted for public review March 2005; submitted responses to EPA in June 2005; held RAB meeting to discuss responses June 2006
	Final Soil Inorganics Background Investigation Work Plan	Submitted May 2006
	Draft Soil Inorganics Background Investigation Report	Currently being prepared
Consent Order Sites (12)	Data Summary Report	Submitted to regulatory agencies May 2005
	Draft PA/SI Report (as revision of Draft RFI Report)	To be prepared following finalization of Background Soil Inorganics Report
8 PI/PAOC Sites	Final PA/SI Work Plan	Submitted January 2006
	Draft PA/SI Report	To be prepared following finalization of Background Soil Inorganics Report